उत्पादन 1994-95 फसल की तुलना में काफी कम नहीं होगा। तथापि कृषि मंत्रालय ने सितम्बर, 1996 में सूचित किया था कि पिछले वर्ष में हुए 65.7 मिलियन टन के उत्पादन की तुलना में गेंहूं का उत्पादन 62.6 मिलियन टन हुआ था। 1996-97 के दौरान न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा की गई गेहूं की वसूली 1995-96 में हुई 12.3 मिलियन टन की वसूली की तुलना में 1996-97 में 8.2 मिलियन टन हुई थी अर्थात् उक्त वसूली 4.1 मिलियन टन कम थी।

1995-96 में देश से गैर-डुरूप गेहूं के निर्यात के लिए 25 लाख टन के सीमा निर्धारित की गई थी। शुरू में वर्ष 1996-07 के लिए भी यही सीमा निर्धारित की गई थी। जैसे ही मंडी में आमद और वसूली में कमी की प्रवृत्ति दिखाई दी गई सरकार ने 1996-97 के दौरान गैर-डुरूम गेहूं के निर्यात की सीमा घटाकर 10 लाख टन कर दी।

1.4.1996 की स्थिति के अनुसार केन्द्रीय पूल मेंगेहू का अथशेष स्टाक लगभग 8 मिलियन टन था जबकि बफर स्टाक का मानदण्ड 3.7 मिलियन टन था। अप्रैल, 1996 में गेहूं के अथशेष स्टाक की अच्छी स्थिति और त्पादन के सामान्य अनुमान को ध्यान में रखते हुए गैर-डुरूम गेहूं के लिए निर्यात की सीमा 10 लाख टन निर्धारित की गई थी जोकि 1995-96 में निर्धारित 25 लाख टन की सीमा से काफी कम थी। 1996-97 के दौरान (नवम्बर, 1996 तक) देश से कुल निर्यात (डुरूम और गैर-डुरूम दोनों) लगभग 11.5 लाख टन का होने की सूचना थी जिसका मूल्य 710 करोड़ रुपए था। सरकार ने सीधे निर्यात नहीं किया गेहूं का निर्यात सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम और निजी निर्यातकों द्वारा किया गया था।

देश में गेहूं की उपलब्धता को बढ़ाने के लिए 1996-97 में 2 मिलियन टन गेहूं का आयात करने का निर्णय किया गया था ताकि मूल्यों में वृद्धि को रोका जा सके।

10 फरवरी, 1997 की स्थिति के अनसुार राज्य व्यापार निगम ने लगभग 16.75 लाख टन गेहूं के आयात के लिए अनुबंध कर लिए थे। भारतीय पत्तनों पर औसत लागत और भाड़ा मूल्य 6227 रुपए प्रति टन (लगभग) के स्तर का है। आयात पर खर्च की गई कुल राशि का पता आयात पूरा होने के बाद चलेगा।

Mrtpc's Allegation on FCI

†73. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has alleged that Food Corporation of India has been over charging customers and supplying inferior grainst;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken to set aside money for public welfare as suggested by MRTPC?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Madam, monopolies and REstrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has issued notice to the Food Corporation of India on the basis of the C&AG Report that it has overcharged the consumers by issuing lower groups of rice in higher group especilly in the State of Kerala.

(b) The MRTPC has highlighted that the lower group stocks were issued in the higher group for which the rates of latter groups were charged. it was alleged that the Food Corporation of India has earned an amount of Rs. 418.71 lakhs and customers were overcharged to that extent.

(c) The Food Corporation of India has given a detailed reply to the MRTPC listing therein the procedure being followed in the issue of rice under Public Distribution System (PDS).

There is no excess amount received by the Corporation on account of issue of rice from lower group as higher group or *voice versa* since the same is adjusted in the amount of subsidy being given by the Government to the Corporation. The FCI has decided to issue the stocks of rice to the PDS only after the receipt of despatch documents by the consignees

instead of issuing on the basis of spot findings of the Committee of Officers nominated for the purpose. This would create a little inconvenience to the consumers in places where smaller capacity godowns are located.

proposal to increase minimum statutory price of sugarcane

174. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleassed to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase the minimum statutory price of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be its impact on the price of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DVENDRA PRASAD VADAY): (a) to (c) The Government had already announced on 11.3.1996 the Statutory Minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for the sugar season 1996-97 at Rs. 45.90 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% sugar subject to a premium of Rs. 0.57 for every 0.1 percentage point increase in the recoery above that level. There is no proposal to increase the same.

Scam of Rs. 100 crores by Fci

175. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam involving over Rs. 100 crores in relation to distribution of wheat by the Food Corporation of India has lately been detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; indicating the modus operandi of the scam, the amount of wheat and money found cornered therein; and

(c) the officers found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONCUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD VADAV): (a) to (c) On the basis of investigaiton done by the Distt., Police Authorities, rohtak (haryana) acase FIR 10 date 6h Janury, 1997 agaisnt Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana and others under Section 420/109/199/200/120-B IPC, 7/10/55/EC Act and 3 (1) (b) of Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 was registered at Police Statcion, Civil Lines, Rohtak, Haryana. The main allegation in the FIR is that wheat was allotted by Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana by taking bride, to the traders and profiteers. The FIR names the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, haryana and two other FCI officials apart from the private parties. The wheat allocated for open sale under OMSS (D) is reported to have been sold to different parties at exorbitant rates. Exact quantity of wheat and amount involved would be known only after the investigation being conducted by the State Police Authorities has been completed.

Import of wheat at the cost Double of procurement price

176. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had ordered the import of wheat recently at landed cost of Rs. 8.50 per kg.;

(b) whether this price is almost the double of the procurement price prevailing in India;

(c) whether this is also a fact that samples of wheat from Canada shipment